

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /068 W

-----065843 151027Z /13

R 141500Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5187

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION USBERLIN UNN

USMISSION NATO

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E.O.11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, ET, GE

SUBJECT: ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION VISITS THE GDR

1. GDR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS CHAIRMAN WILLI STOPH  
RECEIVED AN ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION IN EAST BERLIN JULY 13  
HEADED BY GESSESSE WOLDE KIDAN, MEMBER OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE  
OF THE PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT. NEUES DEUTSCHLAND (ND)  
REPORTS JJULY 14 THAT ETHIOPIAN MINISTER FOR TRADE AND  
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TOURISM, DR. ASHAGRE YIGLETU, AND GDR FOREIGN TRADE  
MINISTER HORST SOELLE WERE ALSO PRESENT AT THE MEETING,  
INDICATING THAT ECONOMIC COOPERATION WAS ON THE AGENDA.  
GDR POLITBURO MEMBER WERNER LAMBERZ RECENTLY RETURNED  
FROM A VISIT TO ETHIOPIA, ALSO ATTENDED THE MEETING.

2. ND REPORTS THAT GESSESSE CONVEYED GREETINGS TO

SED GENERAL SECRETARY HONECKER FROM MENGISTU HALLE MARIAM AND PRAISED SED SUPPOT FOR THE REVOLUTION IN EHTIOPIA. GESSESSE VOWED THAT WITH THE HELP OF THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, ETHIPIA WOULD DEFEND AND CONSOLIDATE ITS "NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTION WITH SOCIALIST ORIENTATION" IN SPITE OF INCREASED IMPERIALISTIC AND COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITY. STOPH FOR HIS PART ASSURED GESSESSE OF CONTINUED "ACTIVE SOLIDARITY" FROM THE GDR.

3. ON JULY 13 LABERZ AND GESSESSE BEGAN TALKS ON WHAT ND TERMED THE FURTHER DEEPENING OF GDR-ETHIOPIAN SOCIAL AND GOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION. THE GDR HAS NOT ANNOUNCED HOW LONG GESSESSE'S VISIT WILL LAST.

3. COMMENT: THE GDR HAS CONCENTRATED INCREASINGLY ON EHTIOPIA OF LATE AND APPEARS TO HAVE A SPECIAL ROLE IN SOVIET BLOC CONTACTS WITH THE MENGISTU GOVERNMENT. GDR AFRICA EXPERT LAMBERZ VISITED ETHIOPIA, BUT NOT SOMALIA, DURING HIS RECENT AFRICA TOUR, AND GESSESSE'S CURRENT STOP IN EAST BERLIN WITH THE THIOPIAN MINISTER OF TRADE INDICATES THAT GDR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE MAY BE EXPANDED. MANY AFRICAN AMBASSADORS IN EAST BERLIN WITH WHOM WE SPOKE RECENTLY ARE CONVINCED THAT THE GDR HAS FOCUSED INCREASINGLY ON THEIOPIA, EVEN AT THE EXPENSE OF ITS PREVIOUS CLOSE TIES WITH SOMALIA. POLANSKY  
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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, ETRD, OVIP, ET, GC, (STOPH, WILLI), (KIDAN, GESSESSE WOLDE), (YIGLETU, ASHAGRE)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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